

October 5, 1970

Dear Mom and Dad,

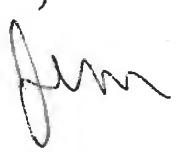
I had a little cold over the weekend and so am staying home today even though I feel fine. We get thirteen days of sick leave a year so I thought I might as well use some up. Vickie has classes this afternoon and I have just been puttering around the house. It is a beautiful clear day around 60 degrees. The fall weather is really wonderful, it is crisp and clear and is such a relief from the summer heat. The nights are cool now with the lows in the forties or even thirties. I have to wear my jacket while waiting for the bus. The weather here is quite changeable since even after it freezes we will still have seventy degree days.

Yesterday we drove west to the mountains and went along the Appalachians which border West Virginia and then crossed back over the Shenandoah Valley. In the mountains the leaves have just started to turn and in a week or two it will be very bright up there. We stopped and bought apple cider along the way which reminded me of Washington since there are a lot of orchards here too.

I am almost afraid to tell you that we aren't taking bridge lessons right away, but you will be glad to know that we bought season tickets for the National Symphony Orchestra which has performances every other Tuesday throughout the winter. Since Vickie is a student we both get reduced rates which come out to be less than a dollar a concert. This is pretty hard to beat for something like this. The concerts are in Constitution Hall up in Washington and we are so glad that we live close enough to drive up there.

Maybe someone should talk to Sandy and tell her that now a days there are ways to prevent babies. Maybe I will send her a book on birth control.

Say hello to Mary and Mike for us.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely reading "Jim", is located in the bottom right corner of the letter.